

## DR. FREEMAN'S TALKS.

## XVII.—Importance of Spraying Fruit Trees.

Messrs. Editors:—In a late article in The Farmer I said that there were more apples in this section than had been for years. Some have thought from this that I had apples for sale, and have written for same. No, I have no apples for the market. We had had but very little fruit for ten years, and I think this crop is due to the spraying of our trees last spring. The trees that "hit" were just loaded down with the finest fruit we have ever had—both apples and peaches. We gave our orchard only one spraying and that was just after the falling of the bloom.

The peaches and some early apples got two and three treatments, and these trees were very full of fine, smooth apples. Our peach trees were cleared of the little white worm which cuts the trees just below the surface of the ground. Then ashes were filled in about the roots.

Now is the time to look over these trees again and fill in around the roots with ashes. Do this now and in the spring and your trees will last many years longer.

Many people who wish to make cider from their apples will tell you that apples fed to hogs do them very little good, if any. Now, we had the finest hogs and they were in better condition than for years while we fed them apples only this summer.

Now, if you want fruit next year, and all the other years, you get the bulletins on spraying and the one on spraying apparatus, sent out by Prof. Franklin Sherman, Jr., of our Department of Agriculture, and do just as he says, and you will have it. He tells you the why and the how in such a plain and straightforward way you can't go wrong.

Wilson Co., N. C.

H. F. FREEMAN.

## Value of Corn Stalks.

Analysis of the different parts of the corn stalk go to prove that the relative value of the different parts are as follows (the crop of corn from which the fodder was calculated was forty bushels of shelled corn to the acre):

Parts of Plant	Lbs.	Per Acre.	Value.
Butts of stalks.....	1,395		\$5.59
Tops of stalks.....	297		13
Bottom blades.....	357		1.27
Top blades.....	212		.82
Shucks and shanks.....	643		2.34
Tassel.....	75		.46
Total.....	2,979		\$11.61

This table shows that the bottom of the stalk, usually left in the field, is worth more than all the rest as feed, but to get this value it must be shredded and packed away in the barn before the weather has extracted all the saccharine matter out of it. Only those who have fed this shredded fodder can thoroughly appreciate how stock relish it. If fed alternately with a ration of pea-vine hay or soy bean hay, the stock will not only go through winter without loss of weight, but will grow and gain flesh even without grain.—Southern Planter for October.

When the writer was a plow boy our parental instructions was to untie the hame string before getting on a mule, so that in case of being thrown the gear would come off and there could be no danger being entangled in the gear and dragged to death. If this simple precaution were always observed many serious accidents could be avoided. A mule is a mighty unreliable animal, and it doesn't pay to give him the advantage, for he is liable to use it when least expected. There is a saying that a mule will be good to you twenty years, trying to get to kill you. It's best to give his heels plenty of room and never put yourself in a position where you'll have to help him wear the gear when he decides to take a little mulish exercise.—Marshville Home.

## Live Stock and Dairy

CONDUCTED BY CHARLES WM. BURKETT,  
Professor of Agriculture, N. C. A. & M. College, and Agri-  
culturist North Carolina Experiment Station.

Inquiries of Progressive Farmer readers cheerfully answered.

## FEEDING CORN STOVER, CUT OR SHREDDED?

Some of us are interested in the manner in which corn stover shall be fed to the horses. Many farmers have been feeding corn stover to horses to good advantage. Some experiments have been made that show that for winter feeding when horses are not put to strenuous work, corn stover is a satisfactory substitute for timothy hay. The former is much cheaper, and if it can be used to good advantage, it should readily find a place in the winter feeding of farm horses.

Since the coming of the corn husker and shredder many inquiries are constantly made as to the superiority, if any, of feeding shredded stover over cut stover. A little experiment made by the writer may throw a little light on this perplexing question. Two horses were fed the same rations as follows: Five pounds of corn and cob meal, fifteen pounds of cowpea hay, and five pounds of corn stover. To one horse the cut stover was fed which had been run through an ensilage cutter; for the other it had been shredded.

The plans and weights of horses are as follows:

Horse	Cut Stover	Date	Shredded Stover
	Daisy		Doll
Weights.....	1294 1218 1208 1185 1209	Jan. 18 " 22 " 28 Feb. 1	1312 1302 1372 1362 1348
Average.....	1209		1348
Hours work done.....	99		99

Daisy in cut stover slightly lost in weight and Doll in shredded stover slightly gained in weight. On February 1st the experiment was reversed and continued for two weeks longer. The results are as follows:

Horse	Cut Stover	Date	Shredded Stover
	Doll		Daisy
Weights.....	1362 1358 1386 1328 1343	Feb. 1 " 4 " 8 " 11 " 15	1195 1208 1236 1214 1224
Average.....	1355		1215
Hours work done.....	103		103

It will be noticed in this table that Daisy slightly gained in shredded stover while Doll on cut stover slightly lost in weight. Considering the two tables, it will be seen that Doll increased in weight from 1,312 pounds on January 18th to February 15th, and Daisy weighed just the same at the end of the experiment as she did at the beginning. The ration was therefore satisfactory. Considering the period of averages it will be noticed that Daisy during the first period had an average weight of 1,208 when she was fed cut stover; during the second period where she was fed shredded stover her average weight advanced to 1,215 pounds. This shows a gain of seven pounds in favor of shredded stover.

When we consider Doll, on the other hand, we notice her average weight for the shredded period is 1,348; when she was fed cut stover we notice that while the weight at the end was slightly below the weight at the beginning, her period average weight is 1,355, or a gain in period average of seven pounds. Thus we see but slight difference, if any, in the manner of using corn stover.

During this time both were used at the same work, and were under the same conditions of feeding, grooming and shelter. All food was weighed before feeding, and all refuse left in manger was weighed. During the whole time all the grain and all cowpea hay were eaten by both horses. Some stover, however, was left in the manger uneaten. This consisted of the butts in the cut and the hard shells in the shredded.

The total quantity of cut that had been given to each horse was 140 pounds, of which thirty-six pounds were uneaten; for shredded, 140 pounds were given to each, and of this seventeen pounds were uneaten. This fact shows that when shredded stover was fed 88 per cent was eaten, and 74 per cent was eaten when cut stover was fed.

The shredded stover was more easily handled and the refuse was better for bedding. There is also a gain in the mechanical operation of preparing the two classes since the husking and shredding was done at one operation and put in the mow at the same time, while it required two operations to prepare the cut stover. The former was done with more economy and to more advantage.

Things considered, we think the advantage lies with shredding stover.

CHARLES W. BURKETT.

## Care of the Pullets.

The fear of over-fat hens need not deter anyone from feeding the pullets liberally. If the pullets have free range they will not be injured by heavy feeding. Growing pullets can not be fed to an extent which will make them too fat to lay. Care should be taken, however, not to feed in a manner which will keep them from working over the range. Feed morning and evening, but nothing at noon. They should not be called off the range for a feed of grain at mid-day. They are gathering a harvest there which is better for them than anything which their owner can give them.

It is a "dead easy" job to get winter eggs from pullets. There is some uncertainty attending the undertaking with old hens. Cold weather may catch them in the midst of their molt and give them a chill which will seemingly keep them in a shiver half the winter. After the new coat of feathers is fully grown they will often still refuse

a satisfactory reason for it. And then while molting the old hens will sometimes become very fat, so that it is impossible for them to lay, and valuable time will be lost in working them down to laying condition. The beginner is likely to meet with some trouble in an undertaking of this kind. He may think he knows just how to do it until he tries.

Pullets if fully matured in October or November will go to laying if they have had access to a sufficient amount of food for healthy development. If they have had free range they will not be over-fat even though they have been at liberty to visit the corn cribs and grain bins at will. There is a deal of fine work saved the owner by trusting to pullets for winter laying rather than old hens. After the winter has set in it is simply a matter of generous feeding and good housing. But the pullets must be in prime condition before winter begins. Have no fear of feeding them all they will eat twice a day. Our favorite feed is a mash in the morning and wheat at night.—Wallace's Farmer.

## A Breeder's Reputation.

A bull, for example, bought from a breeder whose name is familiar to registered live stock producers on both sides of the ocean, will do the purchaser more good in an advertising way than the same animal if secured from an unknown stockman. This goes to show that reputation is another name for publicity, and is worth buying. But the temptation in some instances is to sell reputation instead of good stock. No man's name can make an animal of outstanding inferiority desirable for breeding purposes, and the stockman who, after building an honorable reputation, becomes so lucre-hungry that he is willing to sacrifice that priceless possession, deserves the fate which inevitably awaits him.—Agricultural Advertising.